

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/074,312

Examiner

David P. Bryant

Applicant(s)

SAMUEL, P.R. SURESH

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 4/19/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5,7-11 and 15-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

David P. Bryant
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3726

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Non-elected claims 25-29 have been CANCELED without prejudice.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1 and 15: These claims have been allowed because applicant incorporated therein the allowable subject matter noted in the first Office action (i.e. *a handle for rotating the needle removing fixture, and a needle removing fixture which is rotatably mounted to the container top*).

Regarding claim 21: In applicant's remarks filed April 19, 2004, it was noted that claim 21 was "amended to include the elements of allowable claims 4 and 6." To the contrary, amended claim 21 does not include the combination of a handle and a needle removing fixture which is mounted to the container top. In fact, neither of these limitations are included in amended claim 21. However, the claim as now amended recites that the needle is disconnected from the hub *without shearing* of the needle, by *rotating* the needle in a needle removing fixture, and is *deformed* during the rotating process to prevent reuse thereof. At least three references teach rotating a needle to remove it from a hub without shearing of the needle (see U.S. Patent

Art Unit: 3726

Nos. 4,986,811 to Thead et al.; 5,312,346 to Han; and 5,573,113 to Shillington et al.), but fail to teach the recited deformation. Case (U.S. Patent No. 5,351,381) teaches deformation of the needle and removal without shearing, but fails to teach the recited rotation (the intermeshed gears **22** and **28** simply crimp the needle rather than rotate it). Szablak et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,531,437) teach rotation of the needle and hub, but fail to teach the limitations of “without shearing” and deformation of the needle.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David P. Bryant whose telephone number is (703) 308-1859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (6:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3726

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Art Unit 3726

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5/14/04